

REMARKS

After the claim amendments set forth above, the following is the status of the claims. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2-9 are cancelled. New claims 10-14 are added.

Provisional Double Patenting

Claim 1 is provisionally rejected as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5, 6, and 10-12 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/873,129. No action is required until either the current application or co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/873,129 is allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,667,980 ("Yamamoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,667,980 ("Aoki"). The rejection should be withdrawn at least because the references, taken together or separately, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. For example, neither Yamamoto nor Aoki disclose the specific arrangement for connecting a hitch member to a seat weight sensor mounting bracket. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The subject matter of new claims 10-14 is also patentable over the cited art.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for

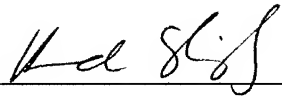
Serial No. 10/718,543

Atty. Dkt. No. 086142-0600

such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extension fees to
Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5582
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Howard N. Shipley
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,370